so impelled and so impelling, the only apertures through which it is possible for air to have access are those at each extremity of the close and air-tight boxes covering the longitudinal slits in the traction-pipe; and these, by an ingenious and effective mechanism, are *opened*, if we can call it so, only while they are filled or closed by the air-tight fitting driving-rod, as it threads its way through them. And finally, thus, in what from the working of the model would appear a practicable manner (though there are some objections in the way), has the formidable difficulty of connecting the piston within the traction-pipe with the carriage without, in the absence of any continuous slit in the pipe, been overcome.

In an equally simple manner other, though minor, difficulties have been surmounted. Thus, air is prevented from entering the antecedent vacuum of the traction-pipe through the boxes covering the slits, while the piston is passing beneath them, by the requisite operation of a double piston and a spring. Thus, also, the driving-rod is supported independently of the gearing of its notches, by another piece of mechanism; and besides other appropriate and necessary devices, there is a modification of the whole invention, which consists in the formation of, or recurrence to, a continuous slit or longitudinal groove in the traction-pipe, but covered by a series of continuous air-tight boxes, running each a length of 25 feet or so, first on or towards one side of the slit or pipe, and then for an equal length towards or on the other,—the rod threading its way through them, and entering and exiting through valved apertures, to the same effect as before, in connection with similar forks, but without springs, or in connection with "griping instruments or pincers" instead of forks at all. But into these minutiæ we cannot here enter.

## THE ART UNION QUESTION AMONGST THE PEERS.

In the House of Lords, on Friday the 22nd instant, the Duke of Cambridge presented a petition from the committee of the Art Union of London, praying for the permanent legalization of art unions. The illustrious Duke strenuously supported the prayer of the petition in a very able speech. In Hanover, where some years ago he had assisted to establish a similar institution, the greatest advantage had been found to result, and it was impossible to deny that great good had been effected by the Art Union of London.

Lord Monteagle said, that he wished to call the attention of her Majesty's government to this petition, which was the first of a series that would be presented on the subject, representing the feelings of not only the artists of the country, but the great body of those who were interested in the fine arts. The committee of the House of Commons, appointed in 1835, had made inquiries, which showed that art unions had been attended with the most beneficial consequences wherever carried out. The amount of capital which had been devoted to the purposes of art by the art unions, exceeded all the votes which Parliament had ever given for that purpose. They had done more for the promotion of art than the Legislature ever had done. They had applied their encouragement to every branch of art; they had given prizes, as government had done, for the best designs; they gave prizes also for the best productions in bronze and marble. They had extended, too, their association over the greater portion of the earth; and a letter had been received that very day from China, giving an account of the establishment of a branch of the art union in that empire. It was scarcely to be believed that, in defiance of all the experience which they had had on this subject, any doubt should exist as to the desirableness of legalizing art unions. A committee had been appointed by Parliament, who had laboured sedulously for two sessions, and they had reported in the most unqualified manner, that these associations should be legalized. It appeared that the art unions were as anxious as any society to prevent abuse; they did not wish to encourage lotteries, but they prayed their Lordships to give their sanction to a bill authorising the Crown to grant a charter, subject to such conditions as might be proposed. That was the utmost extent of their request; and when their lordships considered that they had released parties from debts contracted at race-courses and gambling-houses,—and when they considered that they had, in the course of last year, interfered to protect a great body of the people—those connected with the newspaper press—the artists of this country were not asking their lordships too much, to afford them a similar protection.

Lord Brougham said, that he was grateful to his noble friend, and to the illustrious Duke, for having brought forward this subject, for he believed there never was a grosser delusion than that which some few individuals entertained, namely, that because exemption was to be given to art unions, a similar exemption ought to be given to other tradesmen, such as carpenters, blacksmiths, &c. (Hear.) The fact was this: those tradesmen deals in articles which were always in general and effectual demand, but articles of taste seem to require some extraordinary encouragement. We had already founded the Royal Academy for the purpose of giving encouragement to the arts. No doubt the Royal Academy had been of much use to the fine arts. Perhaps it would have been of more use if it had been a little less exclusive, and if a greater encouragement had been given to those who were not members. (Hear.) He believed that these art-unions had been the means of expending far more money in the encouragement of the arts, than had ever been given by the munificence of the country.

Lord Ashburton presented a petition from the Society of Artists in Water Colours, to the same effect.

The Marquis of Lansdown presented a similar petition from certain artists of the United Kingdom; amongst the names he saw those of Eastlake, Roberts, Ross, Landseer, Westmacott, and Barry. (Hear.) He thought that the time had now arrived for some permanent legislation on this subject. That question ought to be kept entirely separate from the question whether such a description of rewards tended to affect in any way the higher branches of art. That question was one which might safely be left to the discretion of individuals to decide. Parliament ought only to take care that these societies did not, for the purpose of profit, establish lotteries. He believed that it would be easy to frame a bill prohibiting these societies from entering into such speculations. He concurred with his noble friend, that authority ought to be given to the government to grant charters to those societies, after a full preliminary inquiry had been had in each particular case.

The Marquis of Northampton presented a petition in favour of legalizing art unions, from the members of the Royal Birmingham and Midland Counties Art Union.

Lord Monteagle presented similar petitions from the Society of British Artists, and from Macclesfield.

## NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

At a meeting of the society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of churches and chapels, held on the 16th instant, it was determined to grant money to sixteen parishes and districts, for the increase of church accommodation in some of them, and for the erection of six new churches—at Postwood, near Southampton; Cottmanhay, near Nottingham; St. Luke, in the parish of Leek; Newcastle, in the parish of Clun; and St. James, Burnley, and East Compton, in the parish of Oldham, Lancashire; containing in all a population of 13,787. The chapel of St. Ann, Bishop Auckland, and the parish churches of Tretherne, near Dursley, and Brimington, near Chesterfield, also are to be rebuilt with enlargement; Jesus Chapel, St. Mary, extra Southampton, and the church at Hemyock, near Wellington, enlarged; and the churches at Maddington, near Devizes; Alborough, near Harlestone; Lyddington, near Swindon; Sutton-on-Derwent, near York; and Radcliffe, in Lancashire; resented. ——The Birmingham Church of England Cemetery Bill received the royal assent on Thursday week. By one of its clauses, power is granted to the rector or incumbent of any church, in the town, to refuse further burials in the churchyard should it become overcrowded. ——The sum of 3,200*l.* has been subscribed in aid of the fund for the erection of the new church of St. Barnabas, at Ipswich. ——The new college at Marlborough, for the education of the sons of clergymen and others, will be completed and ready for pupils by July next. ——Ford Abbey, Chard, once a celebrated monastery, is about to be sold by auction. ——A workhouse will shortly be required for the Runcorn Union. ——The foundation-stone of the monument (a place of worship), to John Knox, at Edinburgh "on the spot where he lived and died in that city," was laid on Monday week. ——The fountain on the Steine, Brighton, is completed. ——The baths at Perth are advancing rapidly towards completion, but are likely to be arrested from want of funds. "Yet," says a correspondent of the *Edinburgh Register*, "a population of 20,000 are supporting nearly 300 public houses!" ——On the motion of Mr. Dennistoun, the Lords' amendments in the Glasgow Union Arcade Bill were agreed to. ——A portion of the old French prison at Dartmoor, has been taken by a company for the erection of a chemical apparatus and the extraction of naptha, ammonia, tar, &c., from the Dartmoor peat. ——The inhabitants of Hull appear to be awakening to a sense of the defective state of the drainage and other nuisances in various parts of their populous town; the mayor has of late "received a great number of letters complaining" of them, and measures are about to be taken for their removal. ——Considerable progress has been made with the breakwater at Harwich. ——At Middleton, in Lancashire, a great many buildings—new streets, mills, and separate dwellings,—are at present in course of erection, forming altogether a very marked contrast with the state of this place about a century ago, when, on the very spot now becoming a seat of extensive manufactories, there existed "a noble park, well wooded and watered, abounding in retired groves," where and when "there were seldom heard any other sounds than the huntsman's horn, or the axe of the woodman, whilst Sir Ralph de Assheton lived at the hall of his ancestors in feudal dignity; surrounded by a body guard of honest, bold, and faithful peasantry, who roamed with their chief in his sporting expeditions over the far extended domains of the barons of Middleton." But this is a tale which might be told by many more of our thriving towns and fields of manufacturing and railway enterprize, while, on the contrary, for want of like advantages in position and in means of local and more general intercourse, it surely must be, that such towns as Dartmouth have, at this same moment, so different a story to tell: "There never was a town," says the *Western Times*, "which has been more ill-treated than Dartmouth, nor more undeservedly. There is the harbour, which will accommodate the largest man-of-war, clasping her in its long arms so jealously that the sea shall not even look at her. There it is, an exquisite lake, to which you can see no outlet for the lofty wall of verdure on every side. There are all its acknowledged capabilities for commerce, with capacious quays and docks, and an industrious and enterprising population, crying out for employment. Why are they not employed? There are, above all, the unequalled natural beauties of the scenery, and the healthy air—a compound of sea breezes (with the fog off in most seasons) and of the heathy fragrance which the Dart brings along with it from the Moor. Why don't invalids, and fashionables, and tourists, and summer-loungers, and picturesque hunters, come here? How is it that any body ever goes any where else? There is no scenery like this. It cannot be described; it surpasses imagination." ——It appears to be at length determined that his Royal Highness Prince Albert will proceed to lay the foundation stone of the Sailor's Home at Liverpool, on the 30th or 31st of July next; but there is no reason to think that her Majesty will accompany the Prince.

Rather Extensive.—A New York paper states, that a young artist of Louisville, Kentucky, is engaged on a picture which, when completed, will cover upwards of three lineal miles of canvass! It is a panoramic view of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

University College Hospital.—The first stone of the north wing of this hospital was laid on the 20th instant by Lord Brougham, the president of the council of the college. Mr. Alfred Ainger is the architect.

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